

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method for managing telephone service for a plurality of persons sharing a common telephone line based on determining whether a person sharing the common telephone line is as the location served by the common telephone line and for restricting completion of a telephone call from the common telephone line to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line, comprising the steps of

periodically transmitting a unique signal from a transmitter adapted to accompany the person;

receiving said signal in a base station at the location served by the common telephone line, the base station containing a processor, a receiver, and for each person sharing the common telephone line, a database record unique to the person;

the signal emitted by said transmitter having sufficient strength to be received by said base station receiver only when said transmitter is in close proximity to said receiver;

processing said unique signal within the base station;

correlating said unique signal to a the unique record maintained for each person in a the base station database;

further correlating said record to a person;

recording a receipt of said signal in said base station database record;

recording a failure to receive said signal in said base station database record;

upon detecting a change in at least one of said records in said base station database, initiating a wire line telephone call to a local telephone network controller;

uploading said changed records in the base station database via the wire line telephone call into a network database maintained by the local telephone network controller, thereby to record whether each of the persons sharing the common telephone line is or is not at the location served by the common telephone line;

after uploading said base station database, disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;

maintaining in the network database records a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls;

maintaining, in the network database records, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls, a list of at least one restricted outbound telephone numbers;

receiving an outbound telephone call from the subscriber number of the common telephone line;

checking the network database to determine whether said outbound telephone call is from one of said subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on outbound telephone calls;

checking the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers to determine whether a number being called may be completed only if at least one required person is present;

checking ~~a~~ the updated network database to determine whether said at least one required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line; and

permitting said outbound telephone call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line.

19. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

20. (original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of uploading said list of restricted outbound telephone number to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted outbound telephone numbers.

21. (original) The method according to claim 18, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

22. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

23. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

24. (original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

25. (currently amended) A method for managing telephone service for a plurality of persons sharing a common telephone line based on determining whether a person sharing the common telephone line is at the location served by the common telephone line and for restricting completion of a telephone call to the common telephone line to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line, comprising the steps of :

periodically transmitting a unique signal from a transmitter adapted to accompany the person;

receiving said signal in a base station at the location served by the common telephone line, the base station containing a processor, a receiver, and for each person sharing the common telephone line, a database record unique to the person;

the signal emitted by said transmitter having sufficient strength to be received by said base station receiver only when said transmitter is in close proximity to said receiver;

processing said unique signal within the base station;

correlating said unique signal to a the unique record maintained for each person in a the base station database;

further correlating said record to said household member;

recording a receipt of said signal in said base station database record;

recording a failure to receive said signal in said base station database record;

upon detecting a change in at least one of said records in said base station database,

initiating a wire line telephone call to a local telephone network controller;

uploading said changed records in the base station database via the wire line telephone call into a network database maintained by the local telephone network controller.

thereby to record whether each of the persons sharing the common telephone line is or is not at the location served by the common telephone line;

after uploading said base station database, disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;

maintaining in the network database records a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls;

maintaining in the network database records, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls, a list of at least one restricted inbound telephone numbers;

receiving an inbound telephone call to the subscriber number of the common telephone line;

checking the network database to determine whether said inbound telephone call is to a subscriber telephone number that has restrictions on inbound telephone calls;

checking the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers to determine whether said inbound telephone call to said subscriber telephone number being called may be completed only if at least one required person is present;

checking a-the updated network database to determine whether said at least one required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line; and

permitting said inbound telephone call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line.

26. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

27. (original) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of uploading said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers.

28. (original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted ~~outbound~~-inbound telephone numbers by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted ~~outbound~~-inbound telephone numbers by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

31. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted ~~outbound~~-inbound telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

32. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of playing an announcement to a caller explaining that said inbound telephone call cannot be completed if said at least one required person is not present.

33. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of returning to the caller a signal indicating that a telephone is ringing without being answered if said at least one required person is not present.

34. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of automatically transferring a caller to a voice mailbox if said at least one required person is not present.

35. (original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of transferring a caller to a predetermined alternative telephone number if said at least one required person is not present.

36-43. (cancelled)

44. (withdrawn) A method for indicating when a battery on a transmitter is low, comprising the steps of:

- periodically transmitting a unique signal;
- receiving said unique signal within the base station;
- processing said unique signal within the base station; and
- activating a light on said base station.

45. (withdrawn) A method for indicating when a battery on a transmitter is low, comprising the steps of:

- periodically transmitting a unique signal;
- receiving said signal in a base station;
- processing said unique signal within the base station;
- initiating a telephone call to a local telephone network controller;
- uploading information regarding a low battery strength to said local telephone network controller; and
- initiating a telephone call to a person associated with said transmitter to advise said person of the low battery strength of said transmitter.